mobilized and to be mobilized for assuring time-bound implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) As regards North Eastern Region (NER), an Agenda for Socio-economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim was announced by the Prime Minister at Shillong on 22nd January, 2000. The financial requirements for implementation of the items covered under this Agenda are met through the support available from various sources such as Plan/Non-Plan provisions of the Union Ministries/ Departments, North Eastern Council, Financial Institutions, Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

As regards Jammu & Kashmir, announcements were made by the then Prime Minister on floor of Parliament on 23rd July, 1996 and 2nd August, 1996 and also made a statement at Jammu on 14th February 1997 regarding various programmes/schemes/projects for the economic development of the State. The Financial requirement for the items covered under these announcements are met through the Budgets of the concerned Union Ministries/Departments and also through additional funding from the Central Government under the State Plan.

Poverty alleviation programmes

3925. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the poverty alleviation programmes taken up for tackling poverty during 2002-2003; and

(b) the other steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) During 2002-2003 the major ongoing anti-poverty programmes, namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) would continue to be implemented. While the

SGSY aims to provide self employment opportunities for the rural poor, the SGRY seeks to provide wage employment opportunities and food security for the rural poor alongwith creation of rural infrastructure. The SJSRY provides gainful employment to urban unemployed or under employed poor by encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

Special status to Bihar

†3926. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the Director General of Bihar Police, Rajya main aam aadamee kee zindagee vakaee kathin ho gai hai' as appeared in the India Today, dated the 20th February, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to grant special status to Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b), docs not arise.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.